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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/504,005	02/14/2000	Sami Boutros	CISCO-1935	7397

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EXAMINER

KLIMACH, PAULA W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2131

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/504,005

Applicant(s)

BOUTROS ET AL.

Examiner

Paula W Klimach

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dutta (U.S. Patent 6,574,666 B1).

In reference to claim 1, Dutta suggests a firewall device having a plurality of communication interfaces, a firewall system comprising: a) a firewall core connected to each said communication interface (column 4 lines 63-66); and b) at least one inspection module coupled for communication to said firewall core, said inspection module configured to provide protocol inspection of data packets to said firewall core (column 5 lines 1-12), said firewall core configured to receive data packets from said interfaces and communicate said packets to said inspection module for inspection, said inspection module is further configured to be installed during the operation of the firewall system (column 3 lines 14-30).

In reference to claim 6, Dutta suggests a firewall device having a plurality of communication interfaces, a firewall core configured to be coupled to at least one inspection

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module, said firewall core comprising: a) a communication unit operatively coupled to the communication interfaces (column 4 lines 63-66); and b) a set of callback functions, retrieved from said inspection module, each said function providing communication between said firewall core and said inspection module. The use of callback functions is an inherent method of efficient communication between two different systems; the systems in this case are the firewall processor and the fetch processor (column 4 lines 41-50).

In reference to claim 10, Dutta suggests a firewall device having a plurality of communication interfaces and a firewall core coupled to the communication interfaces, an inspection module to configured to couple with the firewall core, said inspection module comprising: a) an inspection unit configured to inspect and authorize data packets (column 5 lines 1-12); and b) a function table having a set of callback functions each said function providing communication between said firewall core and said inspection module. A function table is an obvious method for an operating system to implement call back functions for communication between two systems, which in this case would be the firewall instruction processor and the fetching instruction processor (column 4 lines 42-46).

In reference to claims 15 and 21, Dutta suggests a firewall device having a firewall system including a firewall core, a method for adding protocol knowledge to the firewall system during runtime comprising: a) loading an inspection module comprising new protocol inspection knowledge and a function table having a set of callback functions (column 3 lines 14-25); to b) notifying the firewall core of" said inspection module (column 3 lines 26-33); and c) communicating said set of callback functions to said firewall core. The use of callback functions

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is an inherent method of efficient communication between two different systems, in this case the systems are the firewall processor and the fetch processor (column 4 lines 41-50).

In reference to claims 2-5 and 13, 7-9, 11-12 and 14, 16-20, and 22-26 are rejected as rejections in claims 1, 6, 10, 15, and 21.

Regarding claim 2, wherein said inspection module is installed into a memory space monitored by said firewall core (column 4 lines 41-62).

Regarding claim 3, wherein said inspection module further comprises callback functions, said functions communicated to said firewall core and providing communication between said firewall core and said inspection module. The use of callback functions is an inherent method of defining functions for efficient communication between two systems. The systems in this case are the firewall processor and the fetch processor (column 4 lines 41-50).

Regarding claim 4, wherein said inspection module is further configured to indicate to said firewall core for which data packets said inspection module is configured to provide inspection (column 4 line 66 to column 5 line 12).

Regarding claim 5, wherein said data packets intercepted by said firewall core further includes session information comprising address and port data, said firewall core further configured to map said session information to corresponding inspection modules (column 2 line 60 to column 3 line 5 in combination with column 4 lines 32-50). Packet Filter Router rules are based on address and port information, therefore, the address and port information obviously must be contained within the packets.

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Regarding claim 7, wherein said communication unit is further configured to intercept network data communicated via said network interfaces (column 3 lines 46-65).

Regarding claim 8, further comprising a session mapping unit, said data packets intercepted by said firewall core further including session information comprising address and port data, said firewall core further configured to map said session information to corresponding inspection modules into a session mapping and store said session mapping into said session mapping unit (column 2 line 60 to column 3 line 5 in combination with column 4 lines 32-50). Packet Filter Router rules are based on address and port information, therefore, the address and port information obviously must be contained within the packets.

Regarding claim 9, wherein said communication unit is further configured to communicate packets between said communication interfaces and said inspection module for inspection (column 4 line 63 to column 5 line 12).

Regarding claim 11, wherein said inspection unit is further configured to be installed during the operation of the firewall core. The rules retrieved by the filter processor to update the filter processor are retrieved during the operation of the filter processor.

Regarding claim 12, wherein said inspection module is installed into a memory space monitored by said firewall core (column 4 lines 50-55).

Regarding claim 13. The firewall system of claim 1, wherein said inspection module is further configured to indicate to said firewall core for which data packets said inspection module is configured to provide inspection (column 5 lines 1-12).

Regarding claim 14, where in said inspection unit is further configured to receive and inspect packets communicated from the firewall core (column 5 lines 5-12).

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Regarding claims 16 and 22, further comprising enabling said inspection module, prior to communicating said set of callback function to said firewall core. The new information is used to filter packets therefore the new rules, provided by the filter processor, are in an enabled state similar to the state of the inspection module.

Regarding claims 17 and 23, further comprising inspecting of packets by said inspection module, said packets communicated from the firewall core to said inspection module (column 5 lines 1-12).

Regarding claims 18 and 24, wherein said notifying the firewall core comprises loading said inspection module into a memory space monitored by the firewall core (column 4 lines 50-55).

Regarding claims 19 and 25, wherein said notifying the firewall core comprises transmitting a signal to the firewall core to indicate the installation of said inspection module (column 3 lines 25-32).

Regarding claims 20 and 26, further comprising indicating by said inspection module for which data packets said inspection module provides inspection (column 5 lines 1-12).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paula W Klimach whose telephone number is (703) 305-8421. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Thr 9:30 a.m to 5:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (703) 305-9648. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4832.

PWK

Wednesday, November 26, 2003


AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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